Restoration of buildings of British Raj by 'English Heritage'

4123 SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state .

(a) whether it is a fact that English Heritage, an organisation in U.K. propose to restore the old buildings of British Raj;

(b) if so, whether any proposal has been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are Government's comments thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India are not aware of any such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Racket facilitating entry of foreign nationals into Taj on low-priced tickets

4124. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is true that a racket helps Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Malaysians enter the Taj on low-cost tickets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that groups of tourists are allowed to enter the Taj without valid tickets and for a consideration that is bargained with the duty staff there;

(c) if so, steps taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government have assessed the loss incurred for the last five years; and

(e) whether Government are considering any proposal to reduce the entry fee with a view to increase flow of tourists and maximize the revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government have no report to this effect.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Although certain proposals have been received in this regard for package ticket to monuments, no final decision has been taken.

Decline in Indian Tourists to Nepal

4125. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Indian tourists going to Nepal has declined considerably;